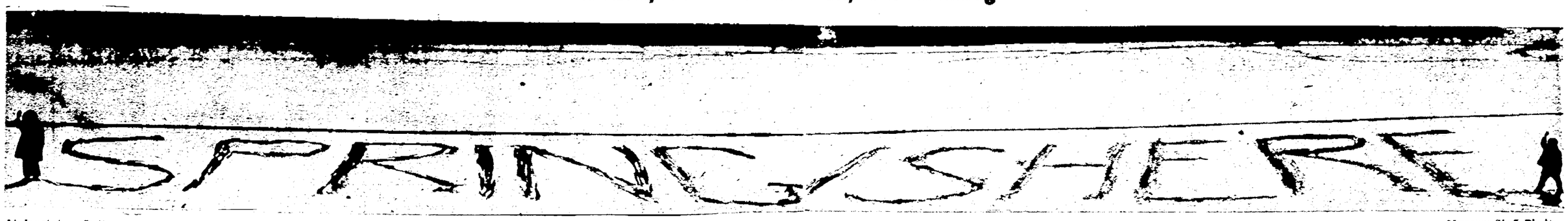
Thanks, Mr. Weatherman, For Nothing



At least two Pottstown lasses felt cheated when they awoke yesterday morning to find six inches of slushy, mid-March snow—and not even sledable snow at that. So they vented their spleen with a hike to Franklin field where they stamped out their sarcastic welcome to the belated March lamb. Waving from the base of the S is Jill Miller. Pamela Mimes aims a snowball from the foot of the E. The snow yesterday provided Pottstown with its second laying fall of 1953. It cut into church attendance, cancelled plans and caused a few accidents, but area motorists didn't take the weather seriously enough to haul out their Winter chains. After following up the morning snow with a clear, dry afternoon, unpredictable March changed its mind again and let loose a few, thick white flurries early last night. But according to the weatherman, the snow is over and what remains on the ground will be gone within a few days. Today is expected to be cloudy with continued cold.

—Mercury Staff Photo

• CONVENIENT DRIVE-IN BANKING
• FREE CUSTOMER PARKING
CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK & TRUST CO.
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Pottstown Mercury

This Fellow Needs A Personal Loan!
POTTSTOWN FINANCE CO. POTTSTOWN TYSON
BORROW from a LOCAL COMPANY with LOCAL MEN
213 HIGH ST. (Second Floor)

VOL. 22, NO. 139 — TELEPHONE 6000 ASSOCIATED PRESS CENTRAL PRESS — POTTSTOWN, PA., MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 9, 1953 — TELEPHONE 6000 ASSOCIATED PRESS CENTRAL PRESS — 5c A COPY 25c A WEEK

MARCH LION SHAKES SNOW FROM MANE

Six-Inch Frosting Spoils Church Attendance Records

YOUNGSTERS FRUSTRATED BY QUICK TURN TO SLUSH

March's Lion huffed and puffed and roared out six inches of snow in Pottstown yesterday between midnight and 8 a. m.

Then, as if frightened by its own audacity, the lion turned the dry and mild daylight hours over to his lamb-like competitor.

When darkness fell, however, he was back for a curtain call and growled out a few light, white flurries before his final retreat.

According to the weatherman, the area's second laying snow is over, and today will be merely cloudy with continued cold.

Snow-packed roads caused five accidents in the area yesterday, none of them serious. Only one person was injured. 6-year-old Raymond Auman, who suffered a forehead abrasion when he was hit by a skidding auto near Colebrookdale. He was treated and discharged at Memorial hospital.

* * *

POTTSTOWN youngsters found the snow a frustrating one—Recreation Director Robert Reis explained it was too slushy by 11 a. m. to establish any sledding hills.

Barriers, he continued, were sent into Summer storage two weeks ago, and Reis doesn't expect to see them hauled out again until next Winter.

Church attendance was seriously stricken by the storm, and area pastors reported their congregations were slashed from 30 to 50 percent.

Sunday schools were hardest hit. Trinity Reformed church's orchestra director Raymond S. Elliott showed up for class to find his entire 15-member orchestra was absent.

* * *

MOST MOTORISTS, although traffic was slowed down, didn't take the snow seriously enough to haul out their chains, a survey of Pottstown service stations revealed.

They placed their faith on the

(Continued on Page Six)

★ ★ ★

Icy Borough Streets Scene of 4 Accidents As Cars Skid, Slide

Icy borough streets after the sudden, brief snowfall last night caused four accidents in a two-and-a-half hour period.

Kept busy enough not to get time to feel the chill of freezing night air were Sgt. Harold Hahn and Motor Patrolman Stanley Borowy. After investigating one accident and then in the process of clearing up traffic at a second one, their own parked police car was hit by a passing motorist.

An accident at 8:26 o'clock took the officers to Hanover and Walnut streets. A sedan and a coupe had collided at the intersection.

Alfred Lupacckino Jr., 411 Berks street, Stowe, told the officers he was driving west on Walnut street when he went into a

(Continued on Page Six)

THE WEATHER

For Eastern Pennsylvania: Today, partly cloudy and continued rather cold, with high in the middle or upper 30s. Tomorrow, increasing cloudiness with slowly rising temperatures and some rain or snow likely by afternoon.

34 High — Mercury Antics — 19 Low

TEMPERATURE EXTREMES

Local temperatures yesterday and early this morning were:

4 a. m.	24	4 p. m.	34
5 a. m.	24	5 p. m.	32
6 a. m.	22	6 p. m.	31
7 a. m.	22	7 p. m.	29
8 a. m.	23	8 p. m.	28
9 a. m.	24	9 p. m.	28
10 a. m.	26	10 p. m.	28
11 a. m.	28	11 p. m.	26
12 m.	30	12 p. m.	24
1 p. m.	30	1 a. m.	22
2 p. m.	32	2 a. m.	20
3 p. m.	34	3 a. m.	19

Commanders Meet

—Mercury Staff Photo

During yesterday's South Central district meeting of the State Amvets, Jack Strange (right), commander of the host Pottstown post, welcomed district commander George Esa, Lansford. Delegates at the bi-monthly meeting discussed a district banquet in May and passed a resolution to keep the Veterans Administration at full strength.

Amvets Make Title Official at Meeting

Under their new official name of "Amvets," delegates from the 21 Southcentral district posts of the former American Veterans of World War II held their bi-monthly meeting in Pottstown yesterday.

Purpose of the national name switch, delegates were told, is to avoid conflict with veterans' organizations which may be formed at later dates.

The meeting voted to take action in preventing the proposed closing down of Veteran Administration offices in several cities.

Messages will be sent to President Eisenhower and the National and State Amvet commanders urging that funds be alloted to keep all present VA headquarters open.

* * *

POTTSTOWN commander Jack Strange introduced State commander William Whitman, member of the Pottstown post, and George Esa, district commander from Lansford.

Banquet chairman Oscar Reichert, Reading, announced the annual district banquet will be held in Reading sometime in the Spring, and Jeff Miller, Lancaster, announced the state convention would be held in his city next July.

Next district meeting was set for May 10 in Lansford.

Pottstown Fireman Wins Nomination to Fire Group Post

Robert Malsberger, 57 Beech street, was one of three men nominated to fill one vacancy for trustee of Montgomery county Fire association at a meeting Saturday at Harmonville Fire company.

Malsberger is financial secretary of the Philadelphia Steam Fire Engine company. He has been a member of the Phillies since 1915 and has served several terms as president.

The veteran fireman has been a member of the county association for the past 30 years.

His opponents in an election to be held next month are Edwin M. Duddy, Conshohocken, and Russell Fitzgerald, Glenside.

* * *

PRESENT AT THE monthly session of the association were 375 firemen of 67 companies.

All officers of the organization were re-nominated. They are George W. Lee, president; Frank Natter, first vice president; Frank Gresh, second vice president; Ed-

(Continued on Page Five)

Fire Violator Fined By Justice Cadmus

One of two men charged with violation of the borough fire code, Milton Wensel, 434 High stret, paid a fine of $13.50 to Seventh ward Justice of the Peace Richard H. Cadmus.

The second man charged with being a fire code offender, Charles Davis, Fourth and Johnson streets, posted $218 bond, pending a hearing before the Seventh ward justice.

The two men were charged by Fire Chief Richard H. Lindauer of the violations.

Warrants were issued by Cadmus this past Wednesday.

The justice explained last night, "I don't know when we'll have a hearing for Davis. That's up to Longaker, (Attorney John H. Longaker,) who

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GRIFFITH PUTS CRASH BLAME ON LEFT TURNS

Speed Traps to Continue Until New Lights Are Installed

BURGESS CITES PROMISE OF STUDY BY STATE

Unlimited left turns were blamed last night for most accidents on West High street by Burgess William A. Griffith.

He said the State has promised to study the whole problem of traffic along West High street in conjunction with construction of the new Schuylkill river bridge for relocated Route 100.

Two motorists have been killed on West High street within the past five months.

Latest victim of the four-lane speedway was Freeman L. Stone, 1121 Queen street, who was killed when his car hurtled out of control Wednesday and smashed into the Cates and Becker auto show rooms. He died the next morning.

This past Fall Theodore Masser, Douglassville, was killed in a headon collision along West High street.

* * *

AS A RESULT of the Masser accident and editorial pressure brought by The Mercury, council's police committee acied to end the heavy accident rate.

Griffith explained, "The speed traps there will continue until we get lights installed.

"Then we'll determine whether the lights have slowed traffic sufficiently to remove the traps.

"Personally, I'm against the traps, but it seems to be the only method to control the situation up there."

The burgess said lights for Berks and Rice streets on High street and Penn Village at High street have been included in the 1953 budget.

He explained, "That's a State

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Light Agenda Is Slated For Meeting of Council

Council tonight will face its lightest agenda in many months.

But veteran members of borough political battles promise no brief session when the meeting convenes at 7:30 o'clock.

A neutral observer for many years, Borough Secretary William S. Shaeffer, asserted. "Sometimes it's the meeting where there isn't much scheduled which lasts the longest."

Tonight's agenda includes committee reports, bonds, the fire chief's report and other incidental matters.

Douglass Township GOP To Choose Primary Slate

Douglass township (Berks county) Republicans will select candidates for the May primary at a caucus in Pine Forge school at 8 o'clock tomorrow night.

They will name candidates for judge of elections, inspector of elections, justice of the peace, an auditor, two school directors and tax collector.

Walter Bowers, Republican committeeman, made the announcement.

Contact Contest Held by Radio Hams

Pottstown hams feel they're bringing home the bacon in an annual international contest for amateur radio clubs being held this past weekend and next Friday, through Sunday.

Two members each from the Pottstown Amateur Radio club and The Hill Radio club joined forces for the race to contact the most hams in the most countries.

According to S. Wyman Rolph, secretary of The Hill group, the Pottstown team tallied contacts with 112 stations in 68 countries during the first log of the competition.

He said the team is allowed 3 points for each contact, 4 contacts in each country, and has chalked up 25,000 points so far.

They began at 7 a. m. Friday and kept sending until 7 p. m. yesterday.

Next week the contest continues for another 48 hours.

The Hill club's station is being used for the contest.

Pottstown Symphony Schedules Rehearsal

The Pottstown Civic symphony will hold a rehearsal Thursday night at 8 o'clock at the Moose auditorium, 320 High street.

All musicians in Pottstown and nearby areas were invited to attend the rehearsal which will be under the direction of Kenneth Morse.

Pieces selected for rehearsal are the Haydn Symphony 99, Schubert's 8th symphony and movements of Mozart's Symphony 40, with incidental music by Brahms and Beethoven.

Plans are being made to hold weekly rehearsals in preparation for a concert.

Employe of Fireworks Company Killed; Coroner Reports Death 'Accidental'

Reading State police and Berks county coroner reported yesterday the death of an employe of the Glory Fireworks company caused by an explosion at the factory Saturday was accidental.

William Bixenstine, 58, of Douglassville RD 1, died within a minute of an explosion at 1:20 p. m. which sent parts of the wooden building he was working in more than 200 feet in all directions.

Harry T. Carson, Berks county deputy coroner, in his report said Bixenstine "accidentally met his death due to a powder explosion the cause of which is unknown."

The victims of the blast was hurled five yards in the explosion, which alarmed residents for a radius of several miles from the factory, about two miles south of Douglassville.

Bixenstine's body was so badly mangled that it was buried yesterday without a viewing.

* * *

GRAVESIDE SERVICES were conducted at 3 p. m. in St. Paul's Methodist cemtery, Geigertown. The Rev. Elmer N. Young, head of Kulpstown Sunday school, officiated.

The building Bixenstine was working in was one of many located at the factory site. It was entirely constructed of wood. Other nearby buildings were of cement cinder block with shingle roofs.

Three other men were in nearby structures when the explosion occurred. None were injured.

They were Anthony Spiezio, 55, Douglassville RD 1, the plant owner; Anthony Aloia, 58, Norristown, an employe, and Samuel Serpicio, Jersey City, N. J., a brother-in-law of Spiezio visiting the plant.

Reading State Trooper Elwood Krause, who investigated the accident, said the men reported they dragged Bixenstine away from the rubble, covered him with a blanket and doused him with water from a garden hose.

He said they reported he died before medical aid could arrive.

* * *

THE PLANT OWNER told Krause that Bixenstine had been packing "whistling bombs" with explosive powder. They are attached to larger dud bombs the firm is producing for the Army to simulate aerial bombing of troops in training.

In the tiny shed which was blown to bits, Spiezio said there was about two pounds of picric acid powder, a high explosive used to detonate the bombs.

Spiezio explained the accident victim's job was to tap the powder into cardboard cylinders with a rubber hammer.

More than 300 of the cylinders were completed by Bixenstine before he left for lunch Saturday, Spiezio told State police. Bixenstine works at the plant part-time, usually on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays.

He is employed in a full-time capacity at the Mayer Pollock company, South Keim street.

* * *

A SIMILAR explosion occurred at the plant on July 11, 1951, in which the owner's son, Fred, escaped with only a scratch on his shoulder. The plant owner's son was also packing cylinders with picric acid powder.

The explosion victim of Saturday's accident is survived by his widow, Margaret (Hohl) Bixenstine, and adopted daughter, Evelyn Bixenstine, at home, and two sisters.

A Birdsboro funeral home was in charge of the graveside service yesterday.

Two Sons Hurt in Separate Accidents

Separate accidents yesterday hospitalized two of the four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kaufman, Boyertown RD 2.

Just before noon, 6-year-old Raymond Auman was hit by a car after he fell in front of his home. He was treated for abrasions over the right eye at Memorial hospital and discharged.

Barely home again, the Kaufman family experienced their second accident after 6 p. m. when 2-year-old Richard Kaufman tripped over a step and rammed his toy banjo through the roof of his mouth.

The child was rushed to Pottstown hospital for four sutures, and will remain until tomorrow. His condition is reported good.

* * *

WITH 38 CENTS for bread buttoned in his pocket Raymond was on his way to the grocery when he fell in the path of a 1951 sedan driven by Howard Schaeffer, 535 Chestnut street.

Schaeffer said he braked but skidded on the snow and was unable to avoid brushing the child, whom he drove immediately to the hospital.

After Raymond was home again he handed the quarter, dime and three pennies back to his mother —proud that he'd lost not a cent of it.

Limerick GOP Club Gives 3 Candidates Support at Meeting

Three candidates for township office will be backed by the month-old Limerick township Republican club in the May primary elections.

Endorsed at the club's meeting in Limerick Fire house were: Jay Hazlett, tax collector; Charles Mogel, school director, and Robert B. Glenn, township auditor.

President J. Allen Minnich appointed a committee to formulate a constitution and by-laws for the political group, and to discuss the securing of a charter.

Serving on the committee will be: Chester Petrowski, Gordon Roesler, Harry Leopold, Daniel Bowers, Lois Miller and Emma Berghoff.

Next meeting will be held in Linfield Fire house at 8 p. m. March 25.

Fourth Try Drops One Beef-on-Hoof In Tractor Chase

It took Paul Weidner, Earlville, four tries to shoot a runaway steer yesterday morning in a field near Greshville.

Two steers from Ruth Wilcox's farm, Boyertown RD, got loose Friday night but the first was rounded up and returned Saturday morning.

By yesterday morning, when the snow enabled Weidner and Mrs. Wilcox's son, Gene, to track the second in a tractor, the young steer was too wild to be returned to the barnyard.

It had to be hunted "like a deer," Mrs. Wilcox explained, and was located in the field about a half mile from the farm.

Weidner missed the steer three times because the sight of his rifle was twisted.

On the fourth try, he ran his finger along the barrel to get his aim and shot the animal in the neck, killing it instantly.

The steer, which weighed close to 500 pounds, was hauled aboard the tractor and returned to the farm for dressing and freezing.

Board Will Continue Gym Project Talks

Members of Pottstown school board tonight are expected to continue discussion on the new Junior and Senior High school gymnasium tonight.

They viewed architect's plans for the structure, which will be built on the Junior High school grounds, at a special session of the board this past Thursday.

The board must decide what method will be used to finance the new structure.

Directors can place direction of the project in the hands of the school authority, which is directing construction of the new West End school, or they can take the issue to the public and request a bond issue.

To Run Again

WILLIAM H. REIFSNYDER

Reifsnyder Will Seek Fifth Term in Council

William H. Reifsnyder, veteran council president, is a candidate for re-election in the Sixth ward.

He will be bidding for his fifth term as one of the two GOP representatives in the Sixth ward. His ward colleague is Republican Ernest C. Hurter.

Reifsnyder is president of Pottstown's Republican club, which sent Pottstown school boys and school girls to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's inauguration in Washington D. C., this past Jan. 20.

The club then awarded prizes to the best essays written on the Washington junket.

* * *

THE AFFABLE, cigar-smoking Reifsnyder is a clerk in the ship-

(Continued on Page Five)

County Judge to Talk Before Biblemen

Pottstown Biblemen will hear some practical words on "Youth in the Courts" tomorrow night.

Montgomery County Judge William F. Dannehower will talk on the subject at the 7:30 p. m. monthly meeting of the Federation of Men's Bible classes in First Methodist church.

The program will also include selections by the chapel choir of the host church, a song service, a social period and refreshments.

* * *

SUNDAY THE BIBLE federation will hold its annual early morning Communion at 7:30 o'clock in Searles Memorial Methodist church.

The Rev. Heywood L. Butler, pastor of Second Baptist, will present a Communion meditation at the service, in which men from all member churches will participate.

YOUTH RECOVERS AFTER KOREAN BATTLE WOUNDS

Hospital Corpsman Was Hit In Arms, Legs, Back by Shell Fragments

A 21-year-old Pottstown RD 4 youth who was critically injured in Korea several weeks ago is on the road to recovery in a hospital in Japan.

Homer D. Hadley, son of Mrs. Estella B. Hadley, was hit in both arms and legs and in the back from shell fragments of a bomb or projectile on Feb. 7.

The battle veteran is a Navy hospital corpsman third class who was serving with front line fighters of the First Marine division.

Three days before he was wounded he wrote his mother that his outfit was getting set to go on a dangerous and important raid.

A telegram notifying her of her son's injuries was received by Mrs. Hadley on Feb. 8.

* * *

ALTHOUGH THE young Navy man has not written his mother since he was wounded, a letter from a Marine who was in combat with him reassured the worried mother that her son was getting along fine and soon would be on his way back to the United States.

The Marine who was with her son when he was injured said Homer was in very serious condition on the battlefield, but in spite of this remained conscious and gave instructions on how first aid should be administered.

The unidentified Marine went on to say that Homer even helped in administering his own first aid. Thirty minutes after he was hit

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ON THE MAIN DRAG

FRED TYSON
—driving a 1915 model touring car on High street.

REV. WILLIAM H. KAULER
—discussing evils of some modern literature.

JEROME HAINES
—looking around for a good garden tractor.

GEORGE BETZ
—planting 2000 tulip bulbs on a bank parking lot.

MARY ESCHBACH
—carrying a basket.

REV. JOHN B. FRANTZ
—leaving a shop.

NANCY QUINTER
—having difficulty with a math problem.

MARY GALLOWAY
—retrieving fallen articles on the street.

WESLEY P. HARLEY
—reaching in an inside coat pocket.

NORRIS OTTINGER
—getting a lift to his home.

Spicer Shop Unit of Local 644 Approves New By-Laws

A new code of by-laws was approved by the Spicer shop unit of Local Amalgamated 644, United Auto Workers (CIO), yesterday.

The by-laws are the first drawn up by the shop unit. Previously the unit was governed by the by-laws of the Amalgamated local.

All provisions of the new code comply with the Amalgamated by-laws.

It was reported social security benefit increases granted by the government will be added to total retirement benefits.

* * *

WHEN AN employe retires, he receives part of his retirement from the government in the form of social security and part from the firm.

When the Federal government increased social security benefits, based on a graduated scale with 25-year men receiving $5 hikes per month, that meant the firm had to pay that much less.

The company now has agreed to increase the total retirement by the amount the government increased social security.

A new contract provision which protects the vacation pay of a worker who is pensioned was explained.

The working year at the Spicer plant runs from April 30 to April 29.

The contract provides men who are not on the seniority list the last day of April shall not rate vacation pay for that year.

This provision has been altered in the case of the pensionee, who will receive full vacation pay for 1000 hours worked if he retires during a given year.

A workmen who works fewer than 1000 hours per year and who leaves to the firm to be pensioned will be granted vacation pay on a graduated scale down to one day.